(b) Government's reaction thereto and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to provide basic education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Provision of free and compulsory education to children of 6-14 years is a Constitutional mandate. Government of India provides basic education through a number of programmes, including Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, a programme for universalizing elementary education. This is supported by the Mid Day Meal Scheme, which aims to improve enrolment and retention in primary schools, while improving the nutritional status of primary schools children. There are other programmes such as Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalya which have a special focus on the girl child.

Shortage of Staff in Engineering Colleges

2766. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is facing huge shortage of qualified teaching staff in the existing engineering colleges;

(b) if so, the actual status specially in the private engineering colleges; and

(c) the steps taken by the AICTE in this regard to get qualified teachers (Professors/Asstt. Professors/Lecturers) to produce quality engineering manpower?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) According to AICTE, there is shortage of faculty in certain disciplines of engineering and technology in the engineering colleges.

(c) Various steps such as Early Faculty Induction Programme,

Emeritus Fellowship Scheme, Visiting Professorship Scheme, Career Awards for Young Teachers Scheme, Seminar/Travel Grant for faculty development are being taken continuously by AICTE for faculty development. Also, as a temporary measure, Professors have been permitted to teach up to 70 years of age.

Rehabilitation of Children of Devadasis

2767. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Karnataka State Mazurai Department has launched a Pilot Scheme in Athni (Belgaum District) to rehabilitate the children of Devadasis in the State;

(b) the number of Devadasis children identified under the scheme and what would be the cost of the project;

(c) whether any proposal is pending with the state Government to extend the scheme to the other regions where the devadasis system was previling; and

(d) the number of Devadasis identified by Government and what are the various schemes undertaken by the State and Central Government towards their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir. However, teh Muzrai Temples belonging to Karnataka State Muzrai Department have donated some amount to Vimochana Devadasis Rehabilitaiton Association at Athani, Belgaum for boarding and uniforms to the children of Devadasis, who are studying from 5th to 10th Standard.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no such proposal ; before the State Government of Karnataka.

(d) the Government of Karnataka, through a survey, has identified 21995 Devadasis in ten districts of State. Karnataka State Women Development Corporation is implementing Awareness Programmes, Health Camps, Income generating activities, formation of Self Help Groups of